

S. 2458: A bill to amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the creation of the Morristown National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes" to authorize the acquisition of property known as the "Warren Property."

S. 2513: A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land located within or adjacent to Rogue River National Forest and to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Land Management to sell and exchange other Federal land in Oregon.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

David Michaels, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environment, Safety and Health).

Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Non-Proliferation and National Security).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Eligah Dane Clark, of Alabama, to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals for a term of six years.

Edward A. Powell, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Management).

Leigh A. Bradley, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans' Affairs.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2552. A bill to reform Social Security by creating personalized retirement accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BYRD:

S. 2553. A bill to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994 to provide for the establishment of school violence prevention hotlines; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 2554. A bill to amend Public Law 90-419 to repeal a limitation on the consent of Congress to the Great Lakes Basin Compact; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 2555. A bill to deauthorize the Blunt Reservoir feature of the Oahe Irrigation Project, South Dakota, and direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain parcels of land acquired for the reservoir to the Commission of Schools and Public Lands of the State of South Dakota, on the condition that the current preferential leaseholders shall have an option to purchase the parcels from the Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 2556. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Social Security Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Federal-State

Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 to improve the method by which Federal unemployment taxes are collected and to improve the method by which funds are provided from Federal unemployment tax revenue for employment security administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 2557. A bill to authorize construction and operation of the Valley Forge Museum of the American Revolution at Valley Forge National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 2558. A bill to provide economic security for battered women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2559. A bill to provide for certain inspections with respect to small farms; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. BREAUX (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2560. A bill to authorize electronic issuance and recognition of migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. NICKLES (for himself and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 2561. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act with respect to furnishing and using consumer reports for employment purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 2562. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend for 6 months the contracts of certain managed care organizations under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 288. A resolution authorizing the printing of the Report of the Task Force on Economic Sanctions; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. MACK):

S. Con. Res. 124. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the denial of benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences to developing countries that violate the intellectual property rights of United States persons, particularly those that have not implemented their obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 2555. A bill to deauthorize the Blunt Reservoir feature of the Oahe Irrigation Project, South Dakota, and direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain parcels of land acquired for the reservoir to the Commission of Schools and Public Lands of the State of South Dakota, on the condition that

the current preferential leaseholders shall have an option to purchase the parcels from the Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE BLUNT RESERVOIR LAND TRANSFER ACT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today, I am introducing legislation to restore to the original owners and operators, the Blunt Reservoir lands in Sully County, South Dakota. The time has come for Congress finally to return these lands to those who owned them and worked them before they were acquired for the Oahe project. It is clear the lands will never be used for their intended purpose and it makes no sense for the Bureau of Reclamation to continue to manage them with the expectation that someday this project ever will be constructed.

The history of this project has been one of contention and debate within South Dakota and the federal government. One of the promises made to South Dakota when the Pick-Sloan dams were authorized was that we would be compensated for hosting the dams with the development of abundant irrigation. The centerpiece of that promise was the Oahe Irrigation project, which was to have expanded the agricultural potential of central South Dakota. In anticipation of constructing the Oahe Irrigation project, the Bureau of Reclamation acquired about 25,000 acres of land in Sully County to be used as a reservoir to store water for the irrigation project and for a canal from Pierre to carry the water. Despite taking this initial step, the project became very controversial and, as a result, has never been built. Consequently, instead of constructing the Blunt Reservoir feature of the project, the Bureau of Reclamation has leased these lands to the original owners and operators on a preferential basis and to others on a non-preferential basis, while waiting to see if Congress and the Administration would ever provide the funding necessary to build the project.

What has become clear during that time is that the Blunt Reservoir feature of the Oahe project never will be completed. It is senseless to continue to ask the Bureau of Reclamation to manage these lands. We should recognize this fact and take the steps necessary to return the lands to the county tax rolls by restoring them to their former owners and operators.

Those who have sacrificed their lands to this ill-fated project should no longer be forced to live with the uncertainty of wondering if they will be forever renting the lands they once owned. One farmer whose family owned Blunt Reservoir land for four generations recently visited me in Washington and told me that under their current circumstances there is little incentive to invest in improving the land. Without the security of ownership, farmers feel more like hired hands than permanent stewards. At times like these, when the very act of